1938

ecology and environment, inc.

160 SPEAR STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94105, TEL. 415/777-2811

International Specialists in the Environment

MEMORANDUM

TO: Carolyn Douglas, EPA Region IX Site Assessment Manager

FROM: Jim James, Ecology and Environment, Inc. JWJ

DATE: March 15, 1990

SUBJECT: Completed Work

cc: Marcia Brooks, E & E, Inc.

Attached is the following completed:

PA___ PA Review___ SSI_X_ LSI___ SIRe___

Other_____

Site Name: Dico Oil Company

EPA ID #: CAD980737076

City, County: Signal Hill, Los Angeles County, California

State Recommendation:
(for Reviews only)

FOR EPA USE ONLY

CERCLIS Lead: Federal

S/I complete 3/16/90 cyd

NFRAP

Entered 3/31/90 SLO

pt/dico/cwm

47826

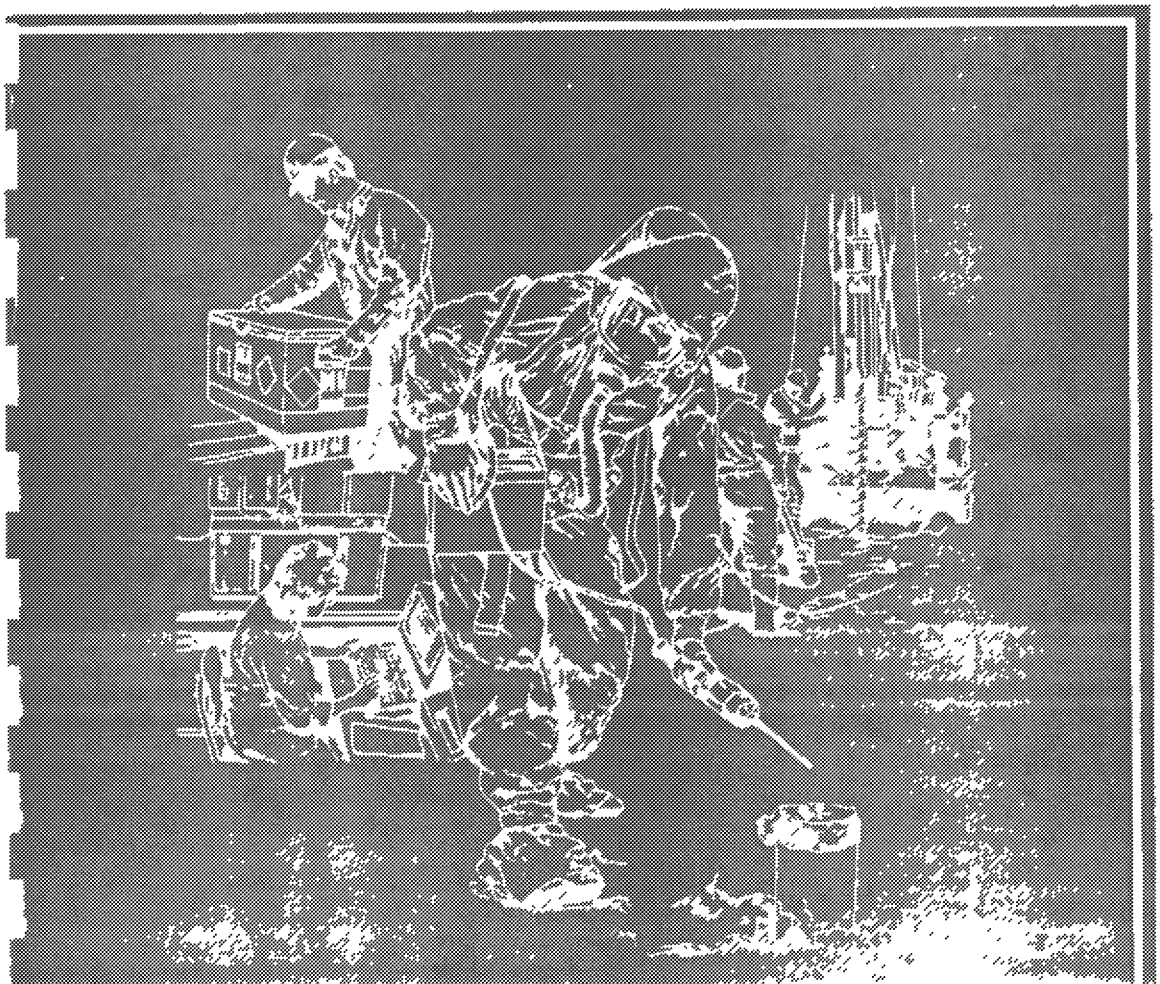
EPA

HAZARDOUS
SITE
EVALUATION
DIVISION

Purpose: CERCLA Screening Site Inspection

Site: Dico Oil Company
1845 East Willow Street
Signal Hill, California
Los Angeles County

Field Investigation Team Zone II



CONTRACT NO.
68-01-7347

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1938

Purpose: CERCLA Screening Site Inspection

Site: Dico Oil Company
1845 East Willow Street
Signal Hill, California
Los Angeles County

Site EPA ID Number:	CAD980737076
TDD Number:	F9-8909-041
Program Account Number:	FCA1290SAA
FIT Investigators:	Peter Towle Linda Stone Laurie Campbell
Date of Inspection:	November 28, 1989
Report Prepared By:	Peter R. Towle PRT
Report Date:	March 16, 1990
FIT Review/Concurrence:	James R. James 3/8/90
Submitted To:	Carolyn Douglas Site Assessment Manager EPA, Region IX

ecology and environment, inc.
160 SPEAR STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94105, TEL. 415/777-2811
International Specialists in the Environment

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

1. SITE DESCRIPTION

Pursuant to Technical Directive Document F9-8909-041, Ecology and Environment, Inc.'s Field Investigation Team (FIT) conducted a Screening Site Inspection at the Dico Oil Company (Dico), in Signal Hill, California. This report summarizes FIT's investigative efforts and draws conclusions regarding the site's eligibility for inclusion on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Priorities List.

The Dico facility is located at 1845 East Willow Street in Signal Hill, Los Angeles County, California. The city of Signal Hill, located in the southern part of Los Angeles County, is bordered on all sides by the city of Long Beach. The Dico facility operates on a 0.5-acre plot of land in a predominately commercial and industrial part of Signal Hill (see Figure 1-1) (1). Although the majority of property near Dico is used for commercial or industrial purposes, there are two residences next door to the Dico facility (2).

The facility, which was built by the TCL Corporation in 1952, has been operated by three different companies: the TCL Corporation (1952-1958), the Western Oil Reduction Company (1958-1960), and finally the Dico Oil Company (1960 to present). Currently, Dico operates the facility but leases the property from a private party (Ms. Bianca Dehne) (2,3).

Since operations began in 1952, the Dico facility has operated as a petroleum storage and dehydration plant. Dico purchases and blends various types of waste oils for resale. The facility has the capacity to handle crude oils, residual and cracked fuel oils, diesel fuels, jet fuels, asphalt emulsions, and waste or used oils. However, in recent years the predominant oil types Dico handles are waste and used oils (4,5).

Dico follows a fairly consistent operating procedure when recycling waste oil. Before purchasing a shipment of oil (each shipment averages from 1,000 to 1,600 gallons), Dico collects a core sample from the load and

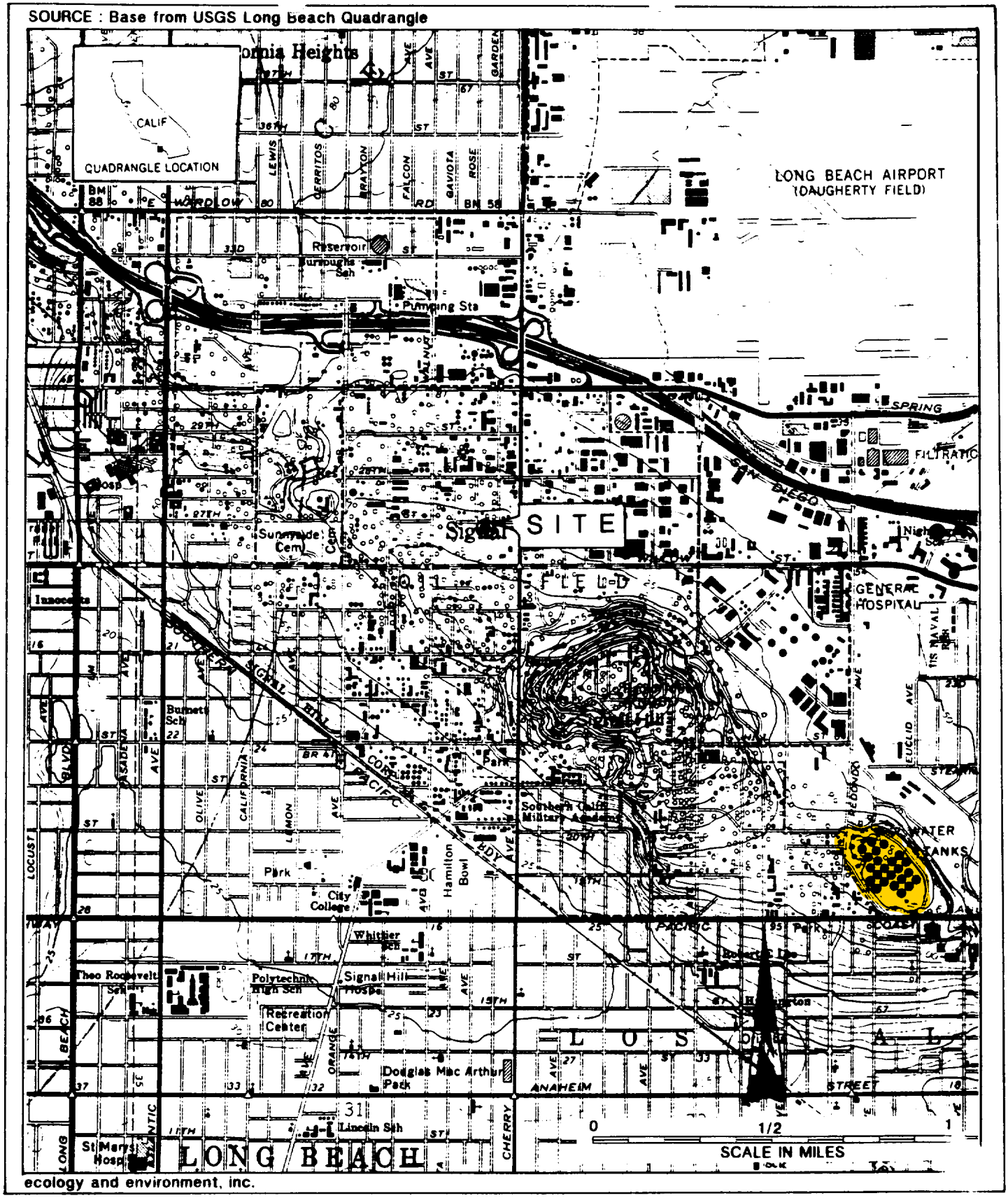


Figure 1-1 SITE LOCATION MAP
DICO OIL COMPANY
1845 EAST WILLOW STREET
SIGNAL HILL, CA

tests for bottoms, solids, and water (BSW), viscosity, and inappropriate odors. No chemical analyses are performed on the oil.

By testing the BSW, viscosity, and for the presence of inappropriate odors, Dico can roughly determine if any organic halogens, organic solvents, heavy metals, or polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) are present in the load. Dico has not established specific criteria for the rejection of waste oil. Depending on results derived from testing the core sample, Dico accepts or refuses to purchase the load. Once Dico accepts a load, oils with varying water and sediment contents are stored in different tanks. Dico mixes oils with varying water and sediment contents to create a marketable fuel. Nothing is added or removed from the waste oil, it is simply blended together. The recycled oil is then sold, through brokers, to the bunker oil market as ship fuel. Dico purchases and resells an average of 2,000,000 gallons of waste oil per year (2,5).

Three people are employed to maintain operations at Dico. One employee works at the Dico office, which is located at 2700 Rose Avenue, Suite K, in Signal Hill, and two employees maintain the Dico facility. The facility itself includes six above-ground, steel waste oil tanks of the following sizes:

Quantity	Size in gallons
1	8,400
3	21,000
1	31,500
1	42,000

The waste oil tanks have been in use since 1952 when the facility was first built. Also located at the Dico facility is a small shack which houses the lab instruments used to test incoming loads of oil (see Figure 1-2) (2,6).

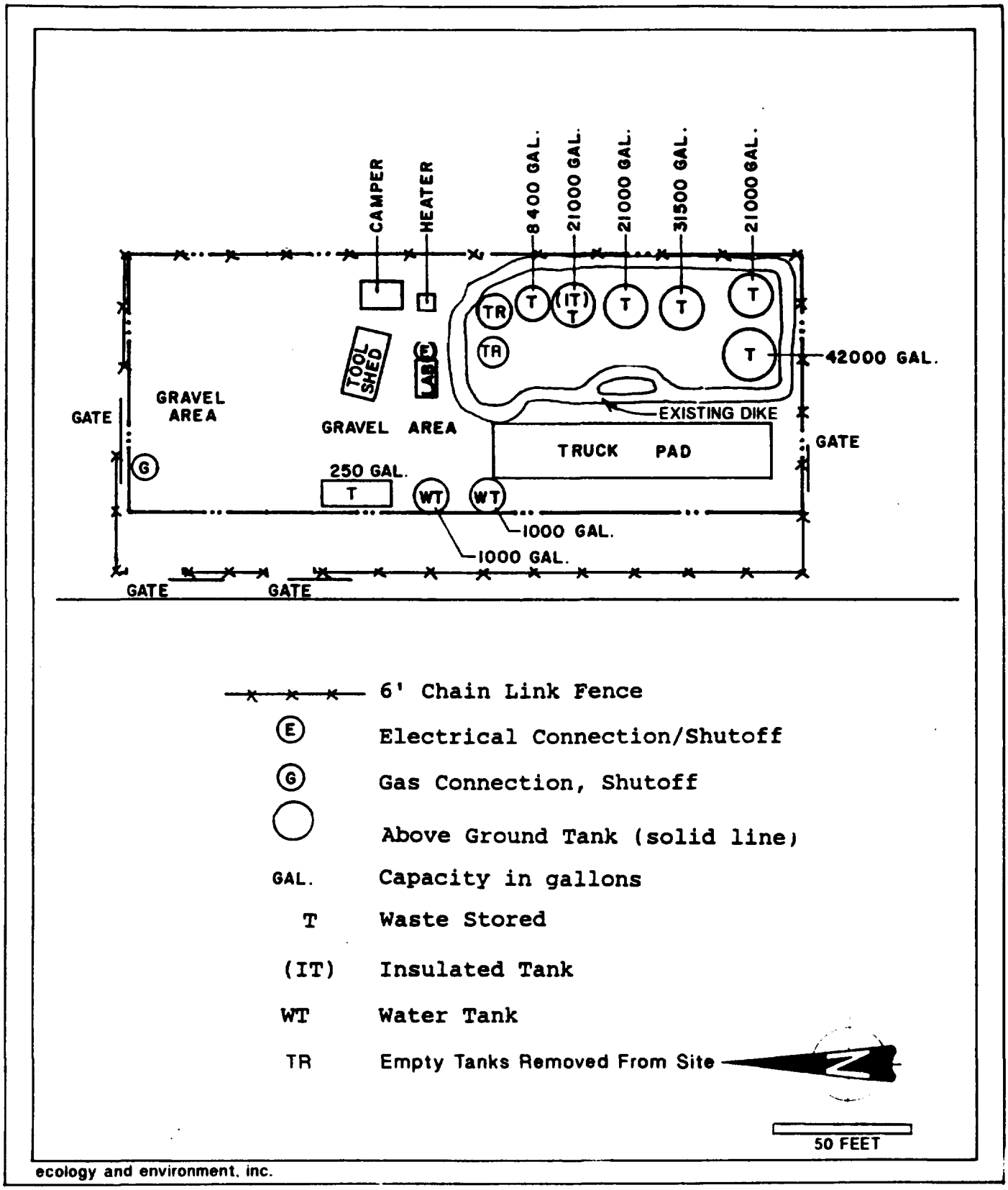


Figure 1-2 FACILITY MAP
DICO OIL COMPANY
1845 EAST WILLOW STREET
SIGNAL HILL, CA

Prior to 1985, Dico siphoned off water from the waste oil in order to improve its quality. The extracted water was stored in two 10,500-gallon steel-lined waste pits. The two waste pits were open to air and sunken into the ground. When the pits became full, Dico had the waste water hauled off site, under manifest, to the Nelco Oil Refining Company in San Diego. The waste water was hauled off site, on the average, 5-6 times a year. In recent years, the marginal return of dehydrating the waste oil and the costs of discharging these wastes to an approved landfill has become uneconomical (2,5).

Currently, instead of removing the water from the waste oil, Dico blends different quality batches to achieve the most economical combinations for resale. Because of this change in operating processes, Dico currently does not produce any wastes. According to Dico, no wastes have ever been disposed of on site (2,5).

In 1987, the Department of Health Services (DOHS) requested that Dico remove the two waste pits. The soil that was beneath the pits was sampled and found to be contaminated with high levels up to 945.3 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) of hydrocarbons (7). Dico removed an additional 4 feet of soil beneath the waste pits. The excavated soil was placed in a pile on the Dico facility. In November 1989, Dico spread the contaminated soil on top of the berm which surrounds the waste oil tanks (2).

In May of 1985, Dico submitted an application for an Interim Status Document (ISD) permit to DOHS. DOHS conducted a number of inspections at the Dico facility. The Financial Responsibility Unit of the DOHS evaluated Dico's financial assurance and liability documents and determined that Dico failed to show the financial responsibility required. DOHS issued an ISD permit to Dico in March 1989, allowing it to recycle oil on site under the condition that the facility would meet the financial responsibility requirement within 60 days (9,10).

In September of 1989, the Financial Unit reviewed Dico's financial records again and found that Dico Oil was still not in compliance with financial assurance and liability requirements. DOHS issued a Report of Violation to Dico on September 18, 1989 (10).

2. APPARENT PROBLEM

As previously discussed, soil contaminated with waste oil has been documented on site (1). There is also a potential for release of waste oil to groundwater and air.

There are two potential sources of contaminants at the Dico facility that may pose a threat to human health and the environment. The first source comes from the six waste oil tanks on site. These tanks were first installed in 1952. During FIT's visual inspection of the tanks they appeared to be in sound condition and adequately painted to prevent corrosion. However, upon inspection of the tank tops, corrosion was discovered. The extent of corrosion was great enough on at least two of the tanks to consider them open to air. The tanks did not appear to be leaking; however, gravel had been piled up against the bases of the tanks, which could conceal any leaks if they existed (2).

The entire tank area is surrounded by a 4-foot soil berm. A number of drums are located around the tank area and are used to hold soiled rags and operating tools (2).

The second source of contaminants comes from the soil contaminated with waste oil that was excavated from beneath the waste pits and placed on the berm. Prior to being placed on the berm, the contaminated soil was stored in a pile on site. The Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) requested that Dico sample the contaminated soil. In August 1989, Dico consultants sampled the excavated soil for total petroleum hydrocarbons, volatile organics, and heavy metals. Sampling results showed total petroleum hydrocarbons at 44,000 mg/kg. This level of total petroleum hydrocarbons in the soil exceeds the RWQCB leaking underground fuel tank (LUFT) standard of 1,000 mg/kg. No volatile organics were detected above their detection limits during sampling. A number of heavy metals were detected, including 340 mg/kg of lead and 37 mg/kg total chromium. Both these levels are beneath the total threshold limit concentration (TTLC) as given in the California Code of Regulation, Title 22. No background samples were taken during this sampling event (1).

On September 26, 1989, DOHS conducted a site inspection of the Dico facility. DOHS cited Dico for a number of violations. Included in these violations was the failure to place all hazardous wastes in suitable containers. This violation is in reference to the contaminated soil that had been placed in a pile on site. Appendix C is a list of the violations cited by DOHS (10).

In November 1989, Dico put the soil on the berm and had plans to seal the berm with an asphalt sealer. According to Dico, RWQCB gave its permission to spread the contaminated soil onto the berm (2). RWQCB denies giving Dico this permission (8).

3. HRS FACTORS

3.1 WASTE TYPE AND QUANTITY

The waste oil recycled at Dico may be a hazardous substance not excluded under sections 101 (14) and (35) of CERCLA, which excludes petroleum, including crude oil or any fraction thereof. According to 50 Fed. Reg. 13460, April 4, 1985, adulterated waste oil is not excluded from CERCLA as a hazardous substance. Samples taken from waste oil recycled at Dico have shown levels of lead up to 91.3 ppm (11). These elevated levels of lead may warrant considering the waste oil at Dico as adulterated and therefore a hazardous substance.

There are six waste oil tanks at the Dico facility. Their total capacity is 144,900 gallons (5). The Dico facility handles about 2,000,000 gallons of waste oil per year. The capacity of the two waste pits that were removed from the site was 10,500 gallons each (2).

In November of 1989, Dico spread approximately 160 cubic feet of soil contaminated with total petroleum hydrocarbons and heavy metals, on the dirt berm that surrounds the waste oil tanks on site (2,11). Sampling results of this soil showed 44,000 mg/kg total petroleum hydrocarbons, 340 mg/kg lead, and 37 mg/kg total chromium (1).

3.2 GROUNDWATER

There has been no documented observed release of contaminants to groundwater associated with operations at the Dico facility. Results of samples collected beneath the area where the waste pits were located indicate decreasing levels of total petroleum hydrocarbons in the soil. According to Dico consultants, when the tanks were excavated, it was apparent that the soil at the base of the excavation was contaminated with hydrocarbons. At this time, a trench was dug 6 feet beneath the original excavation. Samples were taken at intermittent levels. The levels of total petroleum hydrocarbons decreased from 945.3 mg/kg at

1 foot beneath the excavation to a level of 19.7 mg/kg at 6 feet beneath the excavation (7). This sampling data indicates that a majority of the oil that leaked from the excavated pits was trapped in the soil directly beneath the pits.

The Dico facility is located in the southern part of the groundwater basin known as the Central Basin. The southern boundary of the Central Basin is delineated by the Newport-Inglewood belt of hills, part of which includes the Signal Hill area. Groundwater in the Central Basin is found in a number of different aquifers within three different formations. The aquifers of concern beneath the Dico facility are the Gage aquifer in the Lakewood Formation and the Hollydale, Jefferson, Lynwood, Silverado, and Sunnyside aquifers, all within the San Pedro Formation. Within 2 miles of the Dico facility, it appears that there is aquifer interconnection between all of these aquifers (12).

The Bellflower aquitard appears to be continuous beneath the site. The aquitard, consisting of clay, silt, and sandy silt, directly underlies the site and extends 105 feet down to the Gage aquifer. The Gage aquifer extends from 105 feet beneath ground surface (bgs) to a depth of 175 feet. Beneath the site, the Gage aquifer is interconnected with the Hollydale, Jefferson, and Lynwood aquifers. These aquifers extend from 175 feet bgs to a depth of about 300 feet bgs. The Silverado aquifer extends from 400 to 600 feet bgs. The Sunnyside aquifer extends from 650 to 950 feet bgs (12,13). FIT was unable to obtain information on the groundwater gradient below Dico at the time of this report.

The nearest drinking water well is located 1 mile east of the Dico facility. This well, named Citizen 7A well, is owned by the Long Beach Water Department. According to the water well driller's report, the Citizen 7A well is perforated starting at 300 feet and extending to 898 feet (13). It appears that this well draws water from the Lynwood, Silverado, and Sunnyside aquifers (12).

The Long Beach Water Department blends all groundwater obtained from its wells. This groundwater is then blended with water obtained from the Metropolitan Water District's aqueduct system. The blended water mixture is 45% groundwater to 55% water from the Metropolitan Water District.

The Long Beach Water Department serves 430,000 people. Groundwater from the underlying aquifers is also used for industrial purposes (13). The net annual precipitation in the Signal Hill area is approximately 3.2 inches (14).

Although contaminants have been documented in the soil beneath the excavated pits, it appears unlikely that a release to groundwater has occurred or is likely to occur in the future due to the following: the presence of a thick, low permeable layer beneath the site, decreasing levels of contaminants in the soil beneath the excavated pits, and the low net annual precipitation in the Signal Hill area.

3.3 SURFACE WATER

There appears to be little potential for contaminants to migrate to surface water for the following reasons: the closest surface water to the Dico site is the Los Angeles River, which is more than 2 miles west of the site (15), and the Dico site is located outside the 500-year floodplain (16).

3.4 AIR

All waste oil currently stored at the Dico facility is contained in six outdoor, steel tanks which have a total capacity of 144,900 gallons. The tanks are partially open to air due to corrosion and other small openings (2). There is a potential for petroleum hydrocarbons to be released to air from these tanks. The potential for heavy metals contained in the waste oil to be released to air appears less likely due to their low volatility.

Another source of contaminants that can potentially be released to the air pathway is from the contaminated soil. There is a potential for petroleum hydrocarbons and heavy metals to be released to air from this soil. During FIT's inspection of the Dico facility, the contaminated soil was dry and loosely spread over approximately 50 feet of the berm (2).

Two residences next door to Dico are within 0.125 miles of the waste oil tanks and the contaminated soil (2). The population within 1 mile of Dico is approximately 7,415. There are about 319,186 people between 1 and 4 miles from Dico (17). The surrounding area is predominantly industrial and commercial. Two parks lie within 1 mile of Dico. The only sensitive environment within 4 miles of Dico is a public beach, approximately 3 miles south of the site (15).

3.5 ON-SITE

Soil contamination was detected on site; however, there is no known documented contamination outside the facility associated with Dico processes. The Dico property is surrounded by a 6-foot cyclone fence with two entry/exit gates. There are two employees on site. One employee of Dico currently lives in a camper parked on the Dico facility (2). There are approximately 7,415 people living or working within 1 mile of the Dico facility (17). The overall threat of on-site exposure appears to be low because of limited access to entry.

4. SUMMARY OF FIT ACTIVITIES

A CERCLA Site Inspection of Dico Oil Company was conducted on November 28, 1989 by FIT members Peter Towle, Linda Stone, and Laurie Campbell. The inspection began at 11:30 a.m. at the Dico Oil Company offices. Present at the meeting were Richard Cowan, President of Dico Oil, and Jack Bryant, P.E., Consultant for Dico Oil. Some of the information obtained from the meeting and subsequent site visit included:

- There is a 6-foot cyclone fence surrounding the Dico facility.
- There is a 2 to 4-foot hard-packed dirt berm surrounding the six tanks on site.
- There are two residences next door to the Dico facility.
- Dico Oil Company considers itself a small recycling facility.

5. EMERGENCY REMOVAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Dico Oil Company site does not appear to warrant emergency removal. The facility is adequately fenced and the threat for on-site exposure appears low due to limited access to entry and small quantity of contaminated soil.

Dico Oil Company owns two tanker trucks which are parked on site. In case of emergency, Dico has indicated that those trucks could be used if the waste oil needed to be removed.

6. CONCLUSION

The Dico Oil Company site is a small waste oil recycling facility located in the city of Signal Hill in Los Angeles County. Prior to 1985, part of Dico Oil Company's recycling process included siphoning off water from waste oil in order to improve its quality. The resulting waste water was stored in two steel-lined pits on site. In 1987, when the two pits were removed, it was discovered that they had leaked and contaminated the underlying soil with lead and hydrocarbons. The Dico Oil Company Site does not appear eligible for inclusion on the National Priorities List due to the following factors:

- The nearest surface water is more than 2 miles away;
- The potential for release of contaminants to groundwater appears low due to the presence of the Bellflower aquitard; and
- The potential for on-site exposure at the site appears low due to limited access to the site.

7. EPA RECOMMENDATION

	Initial	Date
No Further Remedial Action Planned	ajd	3/16/90
Listing Site Inspection		

Notes:

8. REFERENCES

1. Bryant, Jack K., P.E., Jack K. Bryant & Associates, Inc., to Aaron Rambach, Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 4, letter, September 19, 1989.

2. Towle, Peter, E & E FIT, field notes from FIT Site Inspection of Dico Oil Company, November 28, 1989.

3. Department of Health Services, "Preliminary Assessment Summary - Dico Oil Company," prepared by Richard Brausch, Southern California Section, October 1985.

4. Drake, John, Dico Oil Company, to Judy Walker, EPA Region IX, letter, July 1, 1982.

5. Cowan, Richard, Dico Oil Company, and Peter Towle, E & E FIT, telephone conversation, November 1, 1989 and March 6, 1990.

6. Jack K. Bryant Associates, Inc., "Emergency Evacuation Map and Route: Dico Oil Company," Carson, California, September 1989.

7. Alexander R. Ball, Engineering Geologist, "Geotechnical Report, Subsurface Tank Site: Dico Oil Company," Canoga Park, California, June 22, 1988.

8. Ross, Jim, Regional Water Quality Control Board, Long Beach, and Peter Towle, E & E FIT, telephone conversation, January 2, 1990.

9. Department of Health Services, "Dico Oil Company-Interim Status Document CAD980737076," prepared by John J. Kearns, Region 4, April 6, 1989.

10. Department of Health Services, "Inspection Report-Dico Oil Company," prepared by Irene Muinos, Region 4, November 6, 1989.

11. Harbor Surveys, Lead Analysis for Dico Oil Company, Wilmington, CA, June 30, 1988.

12. State of California Department of Water Resources, Bulletin #104, "Planned Utilization of Groundwater Basins of the Coastal Plain of Los Angeles County," Appendix A, Groundwater Geology, June 1961.

13. Fong, Leighton, City of Long Beach Water Department, and Peter Towle, E & E FIT, telephone conversation, November 1, 1989.

14. Federal Register, Vol. 53, No. 247, Proposed Rules, 52029-52030, December 23, 1988.

15. U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service, National Climatic Center, Comparative Climatic Data for the U.S. through 1985, Nashville, TN.

16. California Department of Fish and Game, Natural Diversity Data Base, Long Beach, Torrance, Seal Beach Quadrangles, Expires April 1, 1990.

17. U.S. Geological Survey, Map of Long Beach, California, 7.5 Quadrangle, 1964, (photorevised 1981).

18. Lilley, Keith, Los Angeles County Planning Division and Peter Towle, E & E FIT, telephone conversation, November 2, 1989.

19. California Department of Finance, "1980 Census of Population and Housing Database," Summary Tape File 1A.

APPENDIX A

Contact Log and Reports

PA/SI CONTACT LOG

Facility Name: Dico Oil Company
Facility ID: CAD980737076

Name	Affiliation	Phone #	Date	Information
Dick Cowan	Dico Oil Co.	213-427-6074	11/1/89	See Contact Report.
John Swart Leighton Fong	City of Long Beach Water Department	213-426-5951	11/1/89	See Contact Report.
Lisa Rodgers	Long Beach Chamber of Commerce	213-436-1251	11/2/89	See Contact Report.
Keith Lilley	L.A. County Planning Division	818-458-4301	11/2/89	See Contact Report.
Irene Muinos	Department of Health Services	213-590-4985	11/6/89	See Contact Report.
Dick Cowan/ Jack Bryant	Dico Oil Co.	213-427-6074	11/28/89	See Contact Report.
Jim Ross	RWQCB	213-266-7615	1/2/90	See Contact Report.
Dick Cowan	Dico Oil Co.	213-427-6074	3/6/90	See Contact Report.

CONTACT REPORT

AGENCY/AFFILIATION: Dico Oil Company		
DEPARTMENT:		
ADDRESS/CITY: 2700 Rose Avenue, Suite K, Signal Hill		
COUNTY/STATE/ZIP: L.A. County, California, 90806		
CONTACT(S)	**TITLE**	**PHONE**
1. Dick Cowan	Owner	213-427-6074
2.		
E & E PERSON MAKING CONTACT: Peter Towle		**DATE:** 11/1/89 3/6/90
SUBJECT: General information about Dico Oil		
SITE NAME: Dico Oil Company		**EPA ID#:** CAD980737076

11/1/89

- Dico Oil accepts all different types of waste oil. Currently though, its predominant source of oil is waste motor oil.

- Current processes at Dico operate as follows:

  Small trucks bring waste oil to the Dico Site. Dico tests the oil for purity. This includes smelling the oil for gas; checking the gravity of the oil, checking the BSW (bottoms, solids, water) permit, the flash point, and testing for chlorinates and heavy metals.

  Upon accepting the oil load, Dico puts the oil into tanks to mix with other oils it has collected. Dico has the following tanks on site:

  3-21,000 gallon tanks
  1- 8,400 gallon tank
  1-31,500 gallon tank
  1-42,000 gallon tank

- Dico sells oil based on the percent BSW. Most clients want 3% or less BSW. Dico uses the tanks to get the waste oil it collects to a certain percent BSW.

- Dico does this by mixing different loads of oil with different levels of percent BSW together.

- o Dico sells its oil indirectly, through brokers, to shipping lines.

- o Dico oil has been at the current site since 1960.

- o Located on site from 1960 to 1987 were two steel-lined, open-air waste pits. One pit was used to collect waste water taken from oils. The other pit was used as an oil storing pit. These pits were buried into the ground. They were 8 feet deep. These pits were removed in 1987. After removal, the soil was sampled. Mr. Cowan said he would send me the contractor and consultant reports associated with their removal.

- o The tanks presently on site collect bottom sludges. These sludges are disposed of off site to a hazardous waste dump when needed.

- o Dico cleans the tanks every so often. The tanks are cleaned out with water and the water is discharged via vacuum truck to a hazardous waste dump.

- o Mr. Cowan says that he has never discharged wastes on site.

- o Currently Dico oil has an ISD permit (Interim Status Document) which it just received in April of 1989.

- o The permit was distributed by the California Department of Health Services, Long Beach.

3/6/90

- o The waste water collected in the waste pits was hauled off site, on the average, 5 to 6 times a year.

- o The waste water was picked up by Nelco Oil Refining Company of San Diego.

- o Nelco Oil Refining would take the waste water to its facility in San Diego.

CONTACT REPORT

AGENCY/AFFILIATION: City of Long Beach Water Department		
DEPARTMENT:		
ADDRESS/CITY: Long Beach		
COUNTY/STATE/ZIP: L.A. County, California		
CONTACT(S)	**TITLE**	**PHONE**
1. John Swart	Engineer	213-426-5951
2. Leighton Fong	Engineer	
E & E PERSON MAKING CONTACT: Peter Towle		**DATE:** 11/1/89
SUBJECT: Drinking water wells in Signal Hill area		
SITE NAME: Dico Oil Company		**EPA ID#:** CAD980737076

Long Beach Water Department blends groundwater and Metropolitan Water District Water together to serve about 430,000 persons.

The Long Beach Water Department blends on the average 45% ground water and 55% Metropolitan Water District Water.

The closest well to the Dico Oil site is the Citizen 7A (45/12W-21M07S) well. It is perforated from 300′ to 898′. The Citizen 7A well is just over 1 mile from the Dico Oil site.

Mr. Fong will send FIT a driller's log from the Citizen 7A well. This information will be used in this report.

CONTACT REPORT

AGENCY/AFFILIATION: Long Beach Chamber of Commerce		
DEPARTMENT:		
ADDRESS/CITY:		
COUNTY/STATE/ZIP:		
CONTACT(S)	**TITLE**	**PHONE**
1. Lisa Rodgers	Administrative Assistant	213-436-1251
2.		
E & E PERSON MAKING CONTACT: Peter Towle		**DATE:** 11/2/89
SUBJECT: Size and population of Long Beach and Signal Hill		
SITE NAME: Dico Oil Company		**EPA ID#:** CAD980737076

- The population of Long Beach is 410,000 and growing.
- Signal Hill is surrounded by the Long Beach area.
- Long Beach is 49 square miles.

CONTACT REPORT

AGENCY/AFFILIATION: L.A. County Planning Division		
DEPARTMENT: Flood Division		
ADDRESS/CITY: La Habra		
COUNTY/STATE/ZIP: L.A. County, California		
CONTACT(S)	**TITLE**	**PHONE**
1. Keith Lilley	Flood Engineer	818-458-4301
2.		
E & E PERSON MAKING CONTACT: Peter Towle		**DATE:** 11/2/89
SUBJECT: Flood plain information for Signal Hill Area		
SITE NAME: Dico Oil Company		**EPA ID#:** CAD980737076

- All of the Signal Hill area is in a Zone-C floodplain.
- A Zone-C floodplain is in an area which is less likely to have a flood than an area with a Zone-B rating.
- Zone-B is a 100-500 year floodplain.
- Therefore, Zone C could be considered outside the 500-year floodplain.

pt/dico/cl-cr

CONTACT REPORT

AGENCY/AFFILIATION: California Department of Health Services		
DEPARTMENT: Toxic Substances Control Department		
ADDRESS/CITY: Long Beach		
COUNTY/STATE/ZIP:		
CONTACT(S)	**TITLE**	**PHONE**
1. Irene Muinos		213-590-4985
2.		
E & E PERSON MAKING CONTACT: Peter Towle		**DATE:** 11/6/89
SUBJECT: Dico Oil		
SITE NAME: Dico Oil Company		**EPA ID#:** CAD980737076

- Ms. Muinos has been to the Dico facility twice, once in late September 1989 and then again in October 1989.

- Her primary concern with the Dico Site has to do with the two tanks removed in 1987.

- Apparently the soils beneath the tanks were contaminated with hydrocarbons. Dico removed this soil and placed it into a pile on site. The pile is uncovered and unlined.

- Apparently, Dico is waiting to get a permit to land-farm the soils on site. In the meantime, the soils remain on site and Dico adds to them.

- According to Ms. Muinos, Dico may be in violation of some DOHS guidelines:

    1. If the lead content in the blended oil exceeds 50 ppm, Dico is supposed to manifest the blend as a hazardous waste. Apparently, Dico has had some blends exceed 50 ppm and not manifested it as a hazardous waste.

    2. When pumping waste oil from the trucks into the tanks, Dico places a 10-gallon bucket underneath the connecting hose in order to catch any oil that may spill. These buckets are not marked as containing hazardous waste.

- Ms. Muinos is citing Dico for storing hazardous wastes on site. Ms. Muinos believes that these soils may contain some concentration of lead. By citing them for storing hazardous wastes on site, she

believes the burden of proof will be placed on Dico to prove that the piles do not contain lead.

- Ms. Muinos referred me to Jim Ross at the RWQCB for more information. Ms. Muinos thinks that Jim Ross believes that the tanks on site may be leaking.

- The waste pile is roughly 10 ft. X 4 ft. X 4 ft..

CONTACT REPORT

AGENCY/AFFILIATION: California Regional Water Quality Control Board		
DEPARTMENT:		
ADDRESS/CITY: Long Beach		
COUNTY/STATE/ZIP:		
CONTACT(S)	**TITLE**	**PHONE**
1. Jim Ross		213-266-7615
2.		
E & E PERSON MAKING CONTACT: Peter Towle		**DATE:** 1-2-90
SUBJECT: Contaminated Soil		
SITE NAME: Dico Oil Company		**EPA ID#:** CAD980737076

- Mr. Ross says RWQCB never gave Dico Oil Co. permission to spread the contaminated soil onto the berm.
- He says that he had told Dico that since there was such a small amount of soil, they should just get it hauled off site.

CONTACT REPORT

AGENCY/AFFILIATION: Dico Oil Company		
DEPARTMENT:		
ADDRESS/CITY: 2700 Rose Avenue, Suite K, Signal Hill		
COUNTY/STATE/ZIP: Los Angeles County, California 90806		
CONTACT(S)	**TITLE**	**PHONE**
1. Richard Cowan	Owner	213-427-6074
2. Jack Bryant	P.E., Consultant	
E & E PERSON MAKING CONTACT: Peter Towle		**DATE:** 11/28/89
SUBJECT: Information obtained during site visit to Dico.		
SITE NAME: Dico Oil Company		**EPA ID#:** CAD980737076

- Two steel-lined waste pits of 10,500 gallons each were removed in 1987. These pits were cemented at the bottom and sunk into the ground.
- Both pits were used for waste water storage until 1986.
- The wastes that were stored in the pits were hauled off to a dump.
- During removal of the waste pits, Dico had 4 feet of soil beneath the pits excavated. This soil was contaminated with hydrocarbons.
- The contaminated soil was stored on-site in a pile until just recently. According to Dico, Jim Ross of the RWQCB gave Dico permission to add the contaminated soil to the berms surrounding the waste tanks.
- Prior to 1985, Dico dehydrated the waste oil it purchased. However, Dico no longer dehydrates the waste oil. All oil is blended instead. Because all oil is blended no waste is produced at the Dico facility.
- The reason for discontinuing the dehydration process is because it became too expensive to dispose of the waste water.
- Dico processes about 2 million gallons of waste oil per year.
- Dico Oil Company considers itself a small recycling facility.

pt/dico/cl-cr

- Dico received its ISD permit in April of 1989.
- There is a 6-foot cyclone fence surrounding the Dico facility.
- There is a 2 to 4-foot hard-packed dirt berm surrounding the six tanks on-site.
- There are two residences next door to the Dico facility.

APPENDIX B

Photodocumentation

FIELD PHOTOGRAPH LOG SHEET

DATE: 11/28/89

TIME: 12:30 PM

DIRECTION:

Southeast

WEATHER: Clear

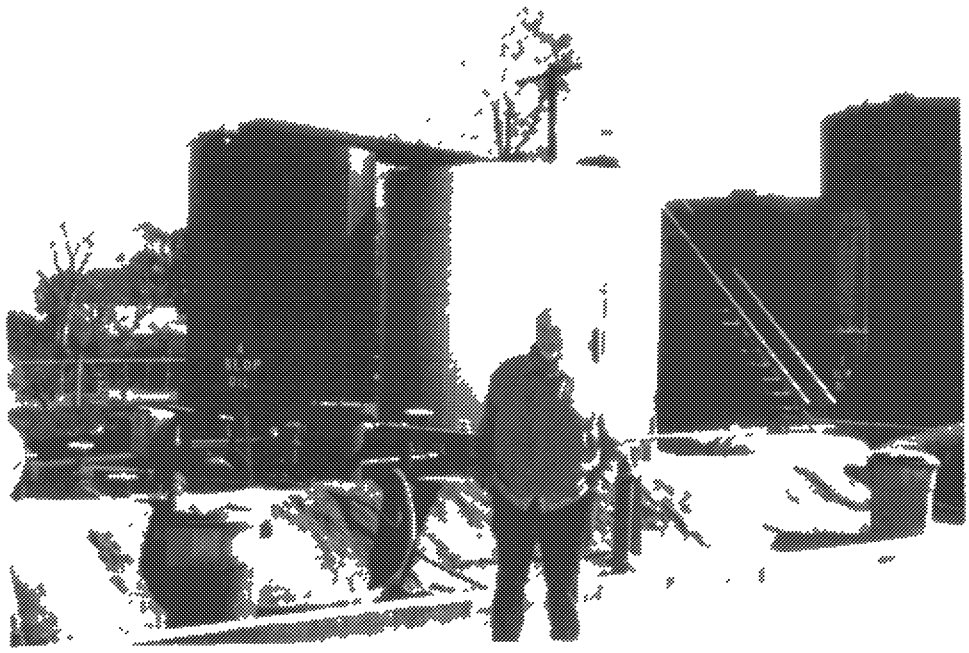
and windy

PHOTOGRAPHED BY:

Peter Towle

SAMPLE ID#:

DESCRIPTION:



Dico waste oil tanks and Mr. Richard Covan, President.

DATE: 11/28/89

TIME 13:20 PM

DIRECTION:

Southeast

WEATHER: Clear

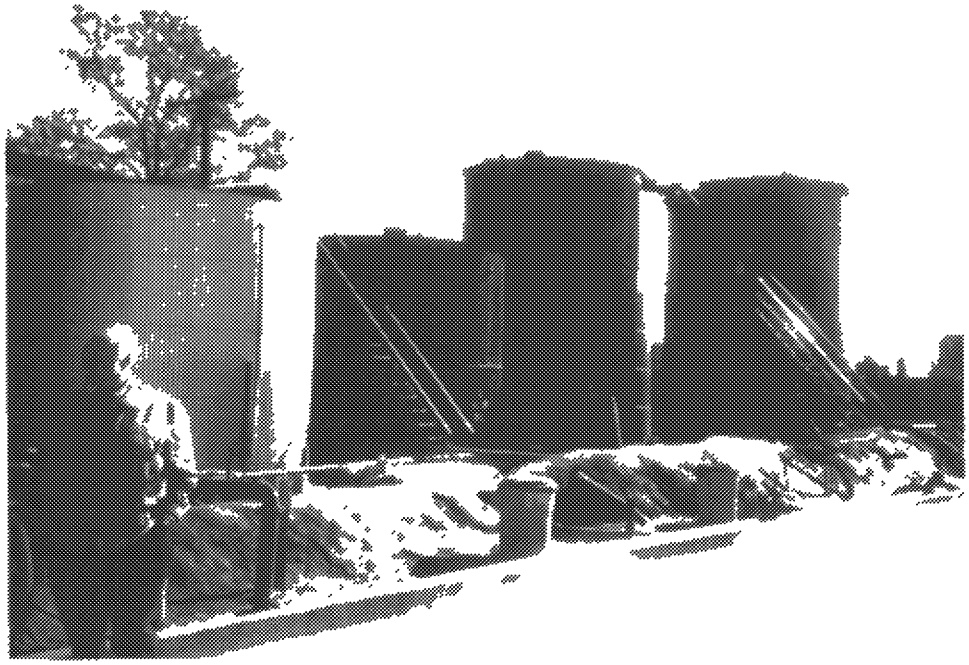
and windy

PHOTOGRAPHED BY:

Peter Towle

SAMPLE ID#:

DESCRIPTION:



Dico waste oil tanks.

pt/dico/1pls

FIELD PHOTOGRAPHY LOG SHEET

DATE: 11/30/89

TIME: 12:20 PM

DIRECTION:

Northeast

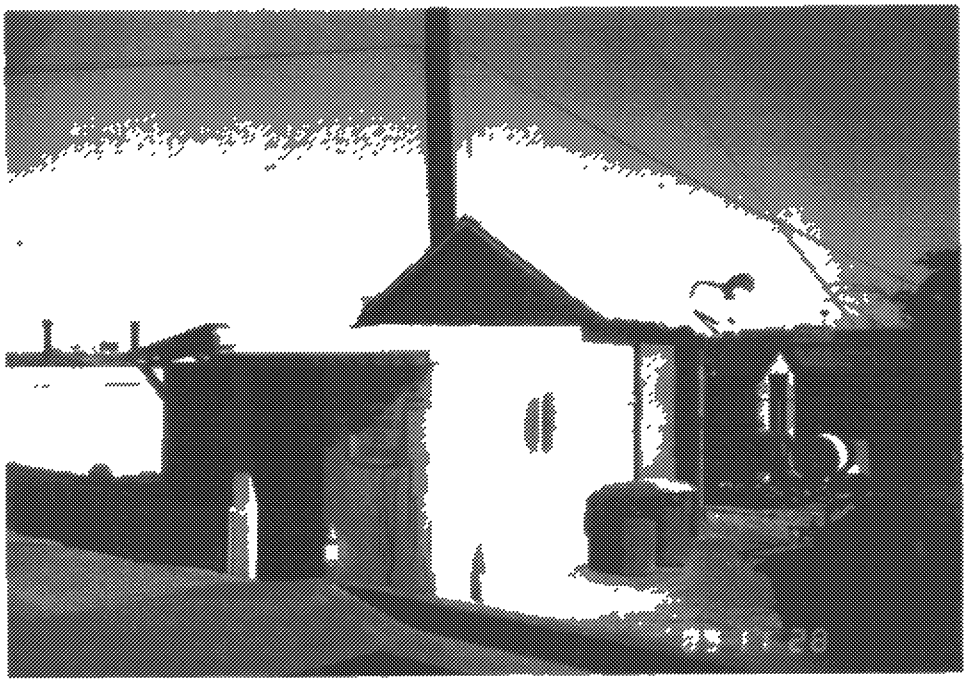
WEATHER: Clear

and windy

PHOTOGRAPHED BY:

Peter Towle

SAMPLE ID#:



DESCRIPTION:

On site laboratory used to analyze waste oil.

DATE: 11/30/89

TIME 12:30 PM

DIRECTION:

North

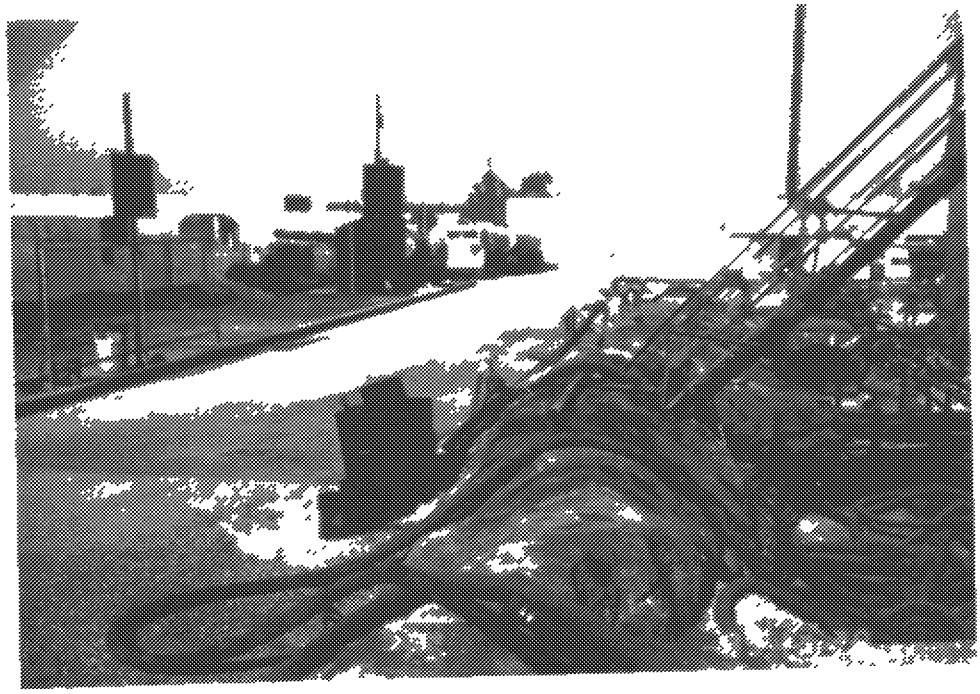
WEATHER: Clear

and windy

PHOTOGRAPHED BY:

Peter Towle

SAMPLE ID#:



DESCRIPTION:

Berm surrounding tank and process hoses.

pt/dlm/fpls

FIELD PHOTOGRAPHY LOG SHEET

DATE: 11/28/89

TIME: 12:30 PM

DIRECTION:

Northwest

WEATHER: Clear

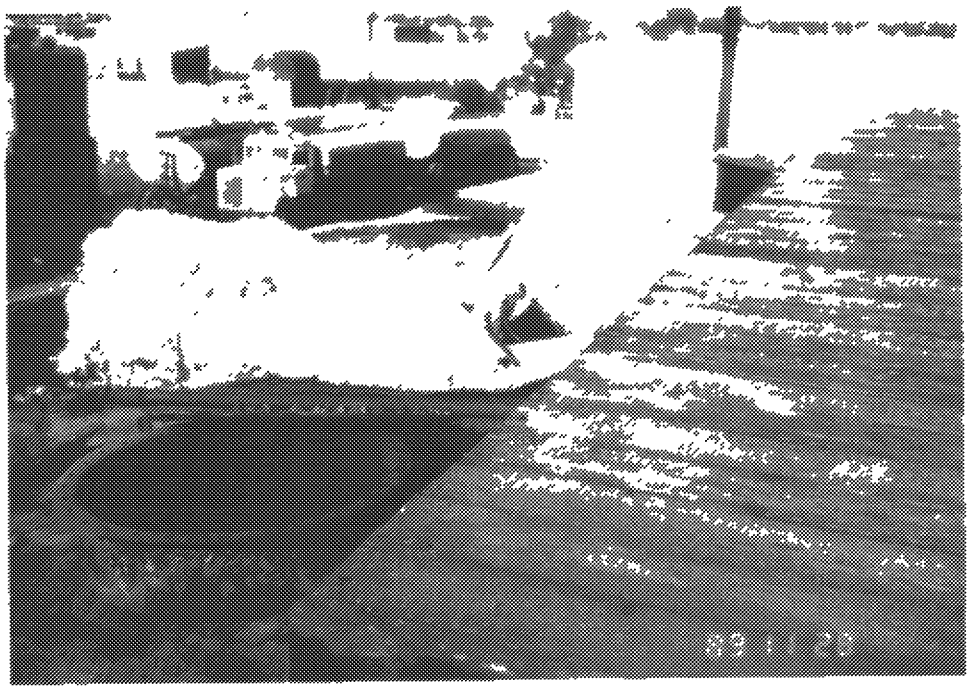
and windy

PHOTOGRAPHED BY:

Peter Towle

SAMPLE ID#:

DESCRIPTION:



Corroded tank top.

DATE: 11/28/89

TIME 12:30 PM

DIRECTION:

East

WEATHR: Clear

and windy

PHOTOGRAPHED BY:

Peter Towle

SAMPLE ID#:

DESCRIPTION:

Nearby residences.

pt/dico/fpls

FIELD PHOTOGRAPHY LOG SHEET

DATE: 11/28/89

TIME: 12:30 PM

DIRECTION:

Down

WEATHER: Clear

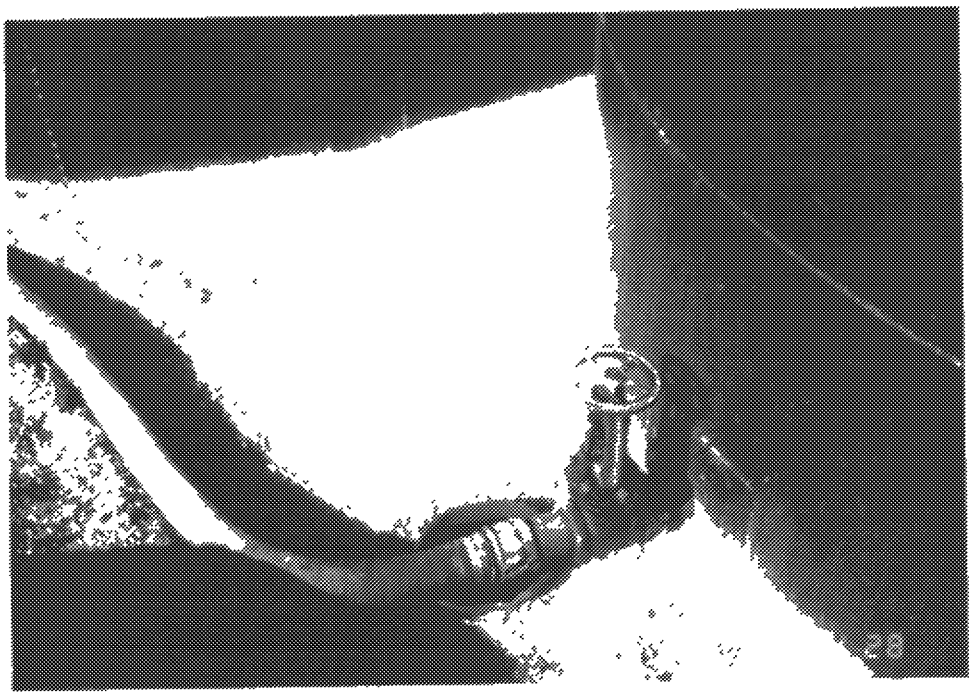
and windy

PHOTOGRAPHED BY:

Peter Toyle

SAMPLE ID#:

DESCRIPTION:



Gravel pushed up against waste oil tanks.

APPENDIX C

Violations

Violations by Dico Oil Company as cited by the Department of Health Services dated November 9, 1989.

1. Title 22, California Code of Regulations (Cal. Code Regs.), section 67163(b)(8).

   Dico Oil Co. violated title 22, Cal. Code Regs., section 67163(b)(8), in that on or about September 26, 1989, Dico Oil Co. did not have a written closure cost estimate.

2. Title 22, Cal. Code Regs., section 66492(b).

   Dico Oil Co. violated title 22, Cal. Code Regs., section 66492(b), in that on or about September 26, 1989, Dico Oil Co. did not keep a copy of each Biennial Report for a period of at least 3 years.

3. Title 22, Cal. Code Regs., section 66508(a)(1), (3).

   Dico Oil Company violated title 22, Cal. Code Regs., section 66508(a)(1), (3), in that on or about September 26, 1989, Dico Oil Company failed to place all hazardous waste in containers, and to comply with all applicable provisions of Article 24.

   Dico Oil Company excavated contaminated soil and placed it in a pile on site. The blue tarp that was covering the pile was not in good condition. This contaminated soil should have been placed in containers and managed as hazardous waste. Also, the buckets that hold waste oil drippings were not managed as hazardous waste, in that they were not labeled.

4. Health and Safety Code (HSC), section 25250.19.

   Dico Oil Company violated HSC, section 25250.19, by incorrectly certifying that oil which it sells as "recycled oil" is in compliance with the standards specified by subdivision (c) of section 25250.1.

   Samples of the "recycled oil" are analyzed by a laboratory off-site before loads are sold. However, when lab results indicate that the oil is not within the standards, (i.e. lead content over 50 ppm) the oil may not be considered recycled oil, and must be accompanied by a hazardous waste manifest. Certification forms may only be used to accompany loads of recycled oil which meet the required standards.